

REMARKS BY JOHN MUTORWA, MINISTER OF BASIC  
EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE, AT THE JUNIOR  
ACHIEVEMENT NAMIBIA "JOB SHADOW DAY", 11 FEBRUARY  
2004

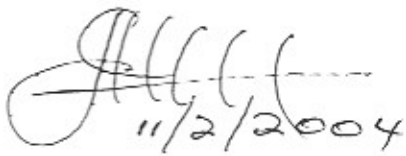
- 1.1 I thank Ms Cloete, Junior Achievement's Country Director, in our country, for the kind invitation that you have extended to me, to participate in today's activities.
- 1.2 The MBESC fully associates itself with, and at the same time, strongly supports Junior Achievement Namibia's mission of educating and inspiring young people, to value free enterprise and economics, in order to improve their own lives, as well as the lives of others. It is equally gratifying to note that, in the context of Namibia, Junior Achievement Namibia, is implementing their programmes at some primary and Secondary schools. I urge Junior Achievement Namibia to continuously endeavour, to expand the programme to many more schools, especially to those schools that are geographically far away, from the big urban, metropolitan centres of our country.
- 1.3 Many a times, voices are heard saying that, our schools do not produce learners with sufficient required skills to enter the job market; and therefore, according to those critics, the education system is defective. That is a wrong and narrow misleading

conclusion. Education and learning provided in especially the Primary phase (Grades 1-7) and Junior Secondary phase (Grades 8-10) are usually of a general nature, as these phases are important formative periods in the intellectual, social and emotional development of Learners. These years must therefore be understood as the basis for further learning, development and growth.

- 1.4 Employers should thus NOT be allowed to continue to get away with the excuse of not employing our school leavers, after Grade 12, simply on the basis of lack of skills. We urge you, to employ those with potential to grow and make a success and provide them with the "on-the-job-training". It is universally accepted that the best way to learn is by doing things, practically.
- 1.5 Admittedly many employers do and should expect our school leavers, to at least, demonstrate a familiarity with the real world of work. To achieve this, our schools must endeavour to promote and maintain a real practical contact between schools, learners and the work places, in their immediate environment, where they are located and operate.
- 1.6 Junior Achievement Namibia, be assured that the MBESC will continue to remain a reliable strategic ally; we shall and must continue to work with you, to motivate and inspire our young people to obtain the required education, training and the skills

necessary to secure readiness, as, not only as possible future employees; but, and very importantly – potential job creators, employers and wealth creators.

Thank you very much!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by several loops and a horizontal line. Below the signature, the date '11/2/2004' is written in a cursive script.

11/2/2004